1 **THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY**

2 **OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:**

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4 1. A telecommunication network management tool for visually distinguishing a selected

5 telecommunication information subset related to a selected telecommunication network

6 layout, the tool comprising:

7 a) a user interface for assembling an altered representation of the network

8 layout through a selected parameter, the user interface co-ordinating the

9 display of the representation on a display;

10 b) a view selector coupled to the user interface for specifying the selected

11 information subset and a reference view, the reference view comprising a

12 data subset contained in the network layout; and

13 c) a display controller coupled to the user interface for combining the

14 information subset and the reference view to generate the representation

15 according to the selected parameter;

16 wherein the selected parameter affects the display content of the representation which

17 provides a visual distinction between the selected information subset and the reference

18 view of the representation.

19 2. The tool according to claim 1, wherein the information subset is selected from the group

20 comprising: a first data subset contained in an information set for systematic presentation

21 of the network layout; and a second data subset external to the information set for

22 augmenting the systematic presentation of the network layout.

23 3. The tool according to claim 2, wherein said view selector further comprises a plurality of

24 the selected parameters for contributing to the contents of said information subset.

25 4. The tool according to claim 3, wherein the selected parameter is selected from the group

26 comprising technology types, logical modes, and physical modes.

27 5. The tool according to claim 3, wherein the contents of said information subset is

28 distinguished from said reference view through a selected visual characteristic.

29 6. The tool according to claim 5, where said visual characteristic is selected from the group

30 comprising; colour, shading, degree of transparency, and line type.

1 7.   The tool according to claim 3, wherein the selected parameter is a technology specific
2   visual representation different from the representation employed to display said reference
3   view.

4 8.   The tool according to claim 7, wherein said technology specific visual representation
5   facilitates the display of primary state information.

6 9.   The tool according to claim 7, wherein said technology specific visual representation
7   facilitates the display of secondary state information.

8 10. The tool according to claim 7, wherein the selected parameter is a technology specific
9   visual representation different from the representation employed to display said reference
10   view.

11 11. The tool according to claim 3 further comprising a save mode for storing the selected
12   parameters for application to alternative ones of said information set.

13 12. The tool according to claim 2 further comprising a toggle switch for adding or removing
14   a selected one of said information subsets from the display of said representation on
15   demand.

16 13. The tool according to claim 3, wherein a plurality of the information subsets are
17   combined with said reference view for display as the representation.

18 14. The tool according to claim 12, wherein a plurality of the information subsets are
19   combined with said reference view for display as the representation.

20 15. The tool according to claim 2, wherein said view selector further comprises a plurality of
21   the selected parameters for contributing to the contents of said information subset.

22 16. The tool according to claim 15, wherein the selected parameter is selected from the group
23   comprising technology types, logical modes, and physical modes.

24 17. The tool according to claim 15, wherein the contents of said information subset is
25   distinguished from said reference view through a selected visual characteristic.

26 18. The tool according to claim 17, where said visual characteristic is selected from the group
27   comprising; colour, shading, degree of transparency, and line type.

28 19. A method for visually distinguishing a selected telecommunication information subset
29   related to a selected telecommunication network layout, the method comprising the steps
30   of:

1   a)   selecting a data set representing the selected network;

2   b)   specifying a selected parameter for providing the selected information

3   subset and a reference view, the reference view comprising a data subset

4   contained in the data set representing the selected network;

5   c)   combining the information subset and the reference view for assembling

6   an altered representation according to the selected parameter; and

7   d)   displaying the altered representation on a display;

8   wherein the selected parameter affects the display content of the altered representation

9   which provides a visual distinction between the selected information subset and the

10   reference view of the representation.

11   20.   A computer program product for visualizing a selected telecommunication information

12   subset related to a selected telecommunication network layout, the product comprising:

13   a)   a computer readable medium;

14   b)   a user interface module stored on the medium for assembling an altered

15   representation of the network configuration through a selected parameter,

16   the user interface module for co-ordinating the display of the

17   representation on a display;

18   c)   a view selector module coupled to said user interface module for

19   specifying the selected information subset and a reference view, the

20   reference view comprising a data subset contained in the network layout;

21   and

22   d)   a display controller module coupled to said user interface module for

23   combining the information subset and the reference view to assemble the

24   representation according to the selected parameter;

25   wherein the selected parameter affects the display content of the representation which

26   provides a visual distinction between the selected information subset and the reference

27   view of the representation.